

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 17 September 2008 from the Permanent Observer of
the League of Arab States to the United Nations addressed to the
President of the Security Council**

Pursuant to Article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations, I have the honour to transmit herewith resolution 6939, adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at its meeting held at the ministerial level during its 130th ordinary session (Cairo, 2-8 September 2008), concerning the occupation by Iran of the three Arab islands in the Arabian Gulf belonging to the United Arab Emirates: the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yahya **Mahmassani**
Ambassador



Annex to the letter dated 17 September 2008 from the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Occupation by Iran of the three Arab islands in the Arabian Gulf belonging to the United Arab Emirates: the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa

The Council of the League at the ministerial level,

Having considered:

- The note of the General Secretariat,
- The preliminary report of the Secretary-General and the activities of the General Secretariat between sessions,
- The recommendation of the Political Affairs Committee,

Guided by the resolutions of previous summits, the most recent of which was resolution 418 of the Damascus Summit (twentieth ordinary session) of 30 March 2008, concerning the occupation by the Islamic Republic of Iran of three islands in the Arabian Gulf, namely, the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, which belong to the United Arab Emirates,

Confirming earlier resolutions, the most recent of which was resolution 6869 adopted at the 129th ordinary session on 5 March 2008,

Decides

1. To reaffirm without qualification the absolute sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over its three islands of the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa and support all peaceful measures and means adopted by the United Arab Emirates in order to regain sovereignty over the occupied islands;
2. To denounce the continued consolidation by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran of its occupation of the three islands and its violation of the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates, which undermine security and stability in the region and pose a threat to international peace and security;
3. To condemn the building of housing facilities by the Iranian Government with a view to settling Iranians on the three occupied Arab islands;
4. To censure the Iranian military manoeuvres being conducted on the three occupied islands of the United Arab Emirates, namely, the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa, and in the territorial waters, airspace, continental shelf and exclusive economic zone of those islands, which constitute an inseparable part of the United Arab Emirates, and to request that the Islamic Republic of Iran desist from such violations and acts of provocation, which constitute interference in the internal affairs of an independent, sovereign State, do not promote confidence building, threaten security and stability in the region and endanger the security and safety of regional and international navigation in the Arabian Gulf;

5. To denounce the opening by the Islamic Republic of Iran of two offices in the United Arab Emirates island of Abu Musa and request the Iranian Government to remove those illegal installations and respect the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over its territory;

6. To appeal once again to the Iranian Government to end its occupation of the three United Arab Emirates islands, refrain from trying to impose a fait accompli by force, desist from establishing any installations for the purpose of modifying the residential or demographic structure of the islands, revoke all measures and remove all installations unilaterally put in place on the three Arab islands, inasmuch as such measures and claims are null and void, lack any legal effect, do not diminish the established right of the United Arab Emirates over its three islands and are acts that run counter to the provisions of international law and the Geneva Convention of 1949; and to call upon the Iranian Government to adopt peaceful means for resolving the current dispute over those islands in accordance with the principles and norms of international law, including agreement to refer the matter to the International Court of Justice;

7. To express the hope that the Islamic Republic of Iran will reconsider its position of rejecting the effort to find a peaceful solution to the issue of the three occupied United Arab Emirates islands either through direct, sincere negotiations or through recourse to the International Court of Justice;

8. To insist that the Islamic Republic of Iran translate its stated desire for improved relations with the Arab countries and for dialogue and détente into genuine action, in both word and deed, in real response to the earnest appeals made by His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Head of State of the United Arab Emirates, and by the Arab States members of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Arab States, the international community, friendly nations and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, calling for a solution to the dispute over the three occupied islands by peaceful means in accordance with customary practice and the covenants and rules of international law, either through direct, genuine negotiations or through recourse to the International Court of Justice, with a view to building trust and enhancing security and stability in the Arabian Gulf region;

9. To have all Arab States undertake, in their contacts with the Islamic Republic of Iran, to raise the issue of the occupation of the three islands by that country, and insist that it must be ended, based on the fact that the three islands are occupied Arab territory;

10. To inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the Security Council of the importance of maintaining the issue on the list of matters of which the Security Council is seized until the Islamic Republic of Iran ends its occupation of the three Arab islands and the United Arab Emirates regains its full sovereignty over them;

11. To request the Secretary-General to follow up this matter and report to the Council at its next ordinary session.

(Resolution 6939 (130) — meeting 2-8 September 2008)